

Loamy
~~DEEP UPLAND~~
DESERT GRASSLAND
RANGE SITE DESCRIPTION

Land Resource Area Trans-Pecos

Location Ft. Stockton

Date January 1, 1972

1. TOPOGRAPHY AND ELEVATION: This site occurs as broad, nearly level to gently sloping plains and basins below the mountains and often adjacent to draws or natural drainage courses. The site is usually in a topographic setting to receive some extra water from adjacent higher terrain. Elevations range from 3000 to 5000 feet.

2. SOILS:

- a. Soils are deep, loams, clay loams, and silty clay loams. Runoff is slow to moderate and soils are moderately permeable, with a high available water holding capacity. Soils are generally high in fertility and have good plant-soil-water-air relationships. The site is susceptible to surface crusting and sheet erosion when unprotected by plant cover and organic residues.

- b. Some soil taxonomic units which characterize this site are:
Hoban loam
Hoban silty clay loam
Reakor clay loam
Hodgins silty clay loam

- c. Specific site location: *FM 1776, 11mi South of Canyonada on West side*

3. CLIMAX VEGETATION:

- a. The climax vegetation is dominated by drought tolerant short grasses and occasional mid grasses. Vegetation is broken or spotty and characterized by intermittent bare areas among moderately dense-turfed "islands" of grass. Small, slightly depressed "micro-sites", supporting larger amounts of mid grasses, occasionally occur within the Deep Upland Site.

RELATIVE PERCENTAGE

<u>Grasses</u>	90%	<u>Woody</u>	5%	<u>Forbs</u>	5%
Blue grama	30	Butterflybush		—Perennial	
Black grama	15	Fourwing saltbush		bladderpod	
Burrograss	10	Tarbrush	4	Mexican sagewort	5
Tobosa	5	Range ratany		—Perennial croton	
Bush muhly	4			Globemallow	
		Ephedra			
Plains bristlegrass	3	Wolfberry			
Arizona cottontop		Allthorn			
		Javelinabush	1		
Sideoats grama	5	Cholla			
Cane bluestem		Yucca			
Perennial threeawn	3				
Sand muhly	2				
Ear muhly					
Sand dropseed					
Mesa dropseed	5				
Spike dropseed					
Alkali sacaton					
Vine-mesquite	T				
Annual grasses	2				

b. Retrogression under continuous heavy grazing results in a decrease of blue grama, cane bluestem, sideoats grama, plains bristlegrass, Arizona cottontop, and palatable forbs and shrubs such as menodora, sagewort, and butterflybush. Other species including sand muhly, burrograss, tobosa, perennial threeawn, ear muhly, sand dropseed, and annuals increase under continuous heavy grazing. Tarbrush, allthorn, and javelinabush increase with site deterioration and creosotebush becomes a prolific invader to the site. Herbaceous species such as fluffgrass, sixweeks grama, annual threeawns, bahia, crotons, dogweed, silverleaf nightshade, and broom snake-weed also invade the site under severe deterioration.

c. Approximate total annual yield of this site in excellent condition varies from 1000 pounds per acre of air-dry herbage in years with good growing conditions to 600 pounds per acre in poor years.

4. WILDLIFE NATIVE TO THE SITE: The site is inhabited by dove, quail, antelope, and jackrabbit. Desert mule deer are sometimes transient on the site.

5. GUIDE TO INITIAL STOCKING RATE:

<u>Condition Class</u>	<u>Climax Vegetation</u>	<u>Ac/AU/Yr.L.</u>	<u>AU/Sec./Yr.L.</u>
Excellent	76-100	28-43	15-23
Good	51-75	32-53	12-20
Fair	26-50	53-107	6-12
Poor	0-25	80-213	3-8

RELATIVE FORAGE QUALITY OF SPECIES 1/

a. Cattle

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Blue grama	Sand muhly	Fluffgrass
Plains bristlegrass	Mesa dropseed	Ear muhly
Sideoats grama	Tobosa	Crotons
Cane bluestem	Perennial threeawn	Tarbrush
Arizona cottontop	Sand dropseed	Wolfberry
Bush muhly	Alkali sacaton	Javelinabush
Vine-mesquite	Burrograss	Allthorn
Menodora	Perennial bladderpod	Cholla
Mexican sagewort	Globemallow	Yucca
Butterflybush	Fourwing saltbush	
	Range ratany	
	Ephedra	

b. Antelope

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Perennial bladderpod	Blue grama	Allthorn
Menodora	Fourwing saltbush	Javelinabush
Butterflybush	Range ratany	Cholla
Globemallow	Black grama	Yucca
Plains zinnia	Sideoats grama	
Mat spurge	Crotons	
	Mexican sagewort	

c. Dove and Quail

<u>Primary</u>	<u>Secondary</u>	<u>Low Value</u>
Seed of:	Seed of:	Seed of:
Crotons	Dropseeds	Blue grama
Plains bristlegrass	Sideoats grama	Black grama
Vine-mesquite	Mexican sagewort	Burrograss
Wolfberry	Globemallow	Muhlys
Javelinabush		Threeawns
Menodora		Tarbrush
Perennial bladderpod		